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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00422 300641Z

15
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15

PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 SS-20 /085 W
---------- 081831
R 291245Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4568

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MP
SUBJECT: PRESS QUESTION ON WATERGATE

DEPT ALSO PASS HORAN/WHITE HOUSE

1. DUE TO NUMEROUS PRESS REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS, I HELD SMALL PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING MAY 29 IN MY OFFICE FOR REPORTERS FROM PRINCIPAL LOCAL PAPERS. FOLLOWING NUMEROUS QUESTIONS ON VARIETY OF TOPICS RANGING FROM DIEGO GARCIA TO MY FEELINGS ABOUT POW EXPERIENCE, ONE REPORTER ASKED MY OPINION ABOUT WATERGATE, TO WHICH I REPLIED ESSENTIALLY AS FOLLOWS:

2. IN MY OWN PERSONAL OPINION, MANY PEOPLE AT HOME NO DOUBT FEEL THAT MISTAKES WERE MADE IN THAT REGARD. MY PERSONAL ASSUMPTION IS THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE PREFERRED THAT NO SUCH INCIDENT HAD TAKEN PLACE. IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT THIS IS CAUSING CONTINUING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE PRESIDENT AT HOME AND NO ONE CAN SAY EXACTLY HOW THIS MATTER WILL FINALLY BE RESOLVED.

3. I FELT IT WAS MORE REASONABLE TO RESPOND IN THIS WAY THAN TO REFUSE ANY COMMENT. SOME OF LOCAL PAPERS HAVE REPUTATION FOR BEING RATHER FREE-WHEELING AND I CANNOT FORETELL WHETHER SOME PAPERS MIGHT TRY TO DISTORT WHAT I SAID, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
MANHARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, WATERGATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740135-0931
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740511/aaaaaiwu.tel
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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